$1\frac{1}{8}$ inch; length of tail 2 inches. Abdominals 228; subcaudals 31; rows of scales 13.

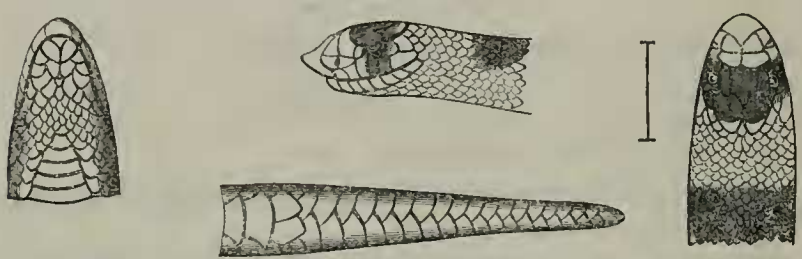
Hab. Manantoddy (Malabar). Rare.

This species differs from all others of the genus in the absence of an anteocular shield.

4. Description of Three New Species of Australian Snakes. By Gerard Krefft.

Simotes australis, sp. nov.

Scales in 17 rows. Ventrals 160 to 163. Anal bifid. Subcaudals 18/18. Total length $11\frac{1}{2}''$; tail $1\frac{1}{8}''$.



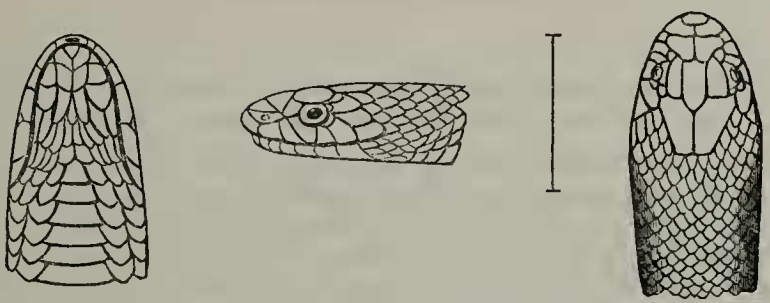
Body cylindrical, rounded; head short, conical, not distinct from neck; tail short, ending in a blunt point. Rostral shield much produced, flat in front, pointed behind, reaching backwards to between the anterior frontals, slightly grooved at its base. Two nasals, nostrils between, one anterior, two posterior oculars; two temporals (in one specimen a third smaller one behind). Eye small; pupil subelliptical, erect; no loreal, replaced by the posterior nasal and anterior ocular; six upper labials, the third and fourth coming into the orbit; occipitals short, not much rounded behind, and but slightly forked. The general colour is red, very bright on the posterior part of the body and tail; all the scales are slightly margined, some, much darker than others, have a whitish (in spirits) spot in the middle, and form into a series of half rings, of which there are about fifty-six upon the body and tail. The head is covered by a black band across the occiput, leaving the snout free, commencing from below the eye, and marking the fourth and fifth upper labials, the vertical, and nearly the whole of the occipitals; this black band is divided from a second band covering the neck by a whitish space.

I believe the present species is the first *Simotes* discovered in Australia; and I am much indebted to Dr. James C. Cox, who found it in the neighbourhood of Port Curtis. A second specimen, taken on the banks of the Clarence River, was given to me a few days ago by Judge Francis.

Hoplocephalus ramsayi, sp. nov.

Scales in 15 rows. Anal bifid. Ventrals 164. Subcaudals 51. Total length $10\frac{1}{2}''$; tail $2''$.

Body rather elongate and rounded; head scarcely distinct from neck, rather high and elongate, with obtuse muzzle; rostral just



reaching to the surface of crown; anterior frontals moderate, rounded in front; posterior ones larger, bent down on the sides; one anterior, two posterior oculars, the lower forming about one-fourth of the orbit; vertical narrow, six-sided, much longer than broad; superciliaries nearly the same size as the vertical; occipitals moderate, not forked behind; six upper labials, the third and fourth forming the lower part of the orbit; no loreal, replaced by the elongate nasal, second and third upper labial, anterior ocular, and bent down anterior frontal. One nasal, pierced by the nostril; scales moderate, rhomboid, in fifteen rows; tail rather short, scarcely distinct from trunk, tapering; eye moderate, pupil rounded; grooved fang in front, some smaller smooth teeth behind.

Dark olive-green above, each scale tipped with reddish, in particular those on the sides; crown and a narrow vertebral line, one scale wide, somewhat darker than the other parts; this line extends to the root of the tail; upper labials and chin-shields whitish, marked with olive-brown in the upper corners. Beneath yellow, each ventral scale with a blackish margin; subcaudals nearly black.

Mr. E. P. Ramsay discovered this new Snake in the neighbourhood of Braidwood, N. S. Wales; it is apparently a young specimen, its total length not exceeding $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

HOPLOCEPHALUS NIGRO-STRIATUS, sp. nov.

Scales in 15 rows. Anal entire. Ventrals 180. Subcaudals 62. Total length 11″; tail $2\frac{1}{2}$″.

Body and tail as in *H. nigrescens*; belly flat; tail moderate, not distinct from trunk; head not distinct from neck, depressed, rounded; rostral moderate; anterior frontals broad, hinder edges just touching the nostril; posterior frontals much larger, rounded behind; vertical moderate, six-sided, very broad; occipitals rather narrow, elongate, much forked and pointed behind; one anterior, two posterior oculars; superciliaries and eyes small; pupil elliptical, erect; six upper labials, third and fourth touching the eye. Upper part of posterior half of tail covered with large hexagonal scales; sides and beneath

yellowish white; crown and a vertebral line running from the neck to the tip of the tail black.

Hab. North-east Australia, neighbourhood of Rockhampton.

5. Notes on Australian Freshwater Fishes, and Descriptions of Four New Species. By Gerard Krefft.

The scanty knowledge which we possess of the fishes inhabiting our freshwater streams has induced me to pay some attention to this subject; and I now furnish a list of species of the several rivers from which I have received specimens. To begin with our immediate neighbourhood, I find that up to the present time not more than four species have been captured in the streams emptying into Port Jackson and Botany Bay:—namely, *Eleotris australis*, sp. nov.; *Mugil dobula*, Gthr.; *Anguilla australis*, Rich.; and *Galaxias scriba*. These four species we find in almost every stream, swamp, and lagoon, *Galaxias scriba* even in old wells or other water-holes on the top of hills, which have no connexion with any of the running streams. *Anguilla australis* is also frequently found in detached pools of water; whilst *Eleotris australis* frequents the clearer streamlets. I have never had an opportunity of examining the creeks which are situated upon the north shore of Port Jackson, nor have I ever received specimens captured there; but I have reason to believe that, besides the four kinds of fish mentioned, there exists a larger freshwater species, commonly called "Perch," probably a *Therapon*, which is not found in the salt water of the harbour.

With regard to the fishes of the Nepean or Hawkesbury, its tributaries, and the swamps and lagoons with which this river is occasionally connected during high floods, I am enabled to give a better account. I have drawn the seine in the Hawkesbury between Windsor and Richmond, about fifty miles from its mouth, where the water is as fresh as that of any mountain-stream; and the result was, at a haul, about 200 so-called "Mullets" (two species, *Mugil dobula*, Gthr., and *Mugil compressus*, Gthr.), two "Eels" (*Anguilla australis*, Rich.), a "Perch" (*Lates colonorum*, Gthr., Ann. N. H. 1863, xi. p. 114), and a "Rock Cod" (*Dertropogon robustus*, Gthr.). How this last fish managed to go so far up a freshwater river I could not understand. It has all the appearance of a true sea-fish; and yet I took it subsequently much further up the river, between the mountains, whilst I have also received two specimens captured with hook and line in Mr. Pitt's lagoon near Bronte—a lagoon which, Mr. Pitt informs me, has not been flooded during the last four years. There is another fish, called a "Bream" by the settlers, which we did not succeed in capturing (this is probably *Beryx affinis*), and a second species of Perch, which may prove to be new. At a second haul a true Flat-head (*Platycephalus tasmanius*, Rich.) was secured, besides the usual amount of "Mullet" and "Perch." The smaller fry, as *Galaxias scriba*, Rich., and the so-called Sprat